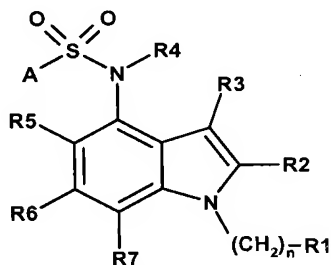


# **IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A sulfonamide compound of general formula (Ia),



(Ia),

wherein

R<sup>1</sup> represents a –NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup> radical or a saturated or unsaturated, optionally at least mono-substituted cycloaliphatic radical, which may contain at least one heteroatom selected from nitrogen, sulphur and oxygen as a ring member and/or which may be condensed with a saturated or unsaturated, optionally at least mono-substituted, optionally at least one heteroatom selected from nitrogen, sulphur and oxygen as a ring member containing mono- or bicyclic cycloaliphatic ring system, wherein each of the substituents may be chosen from hydroxyl, fluorine, chlorine, bromide, linear or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl, linear or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkoxy, linear or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> perfluoroalkyl, linear or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> perfluoroalkoxy and benzyl,

R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>5</sup>, R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>7</sup>, identical or different, each represent hydrogen, halogen, nitro, alkoxy, cyano, a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched, aliphatic radical optionally at least mono-substituted by hydroxy, fluorine, chlorine, bromide or trifluoromethyl; or a phenyl or a heteroaryl radical

R<sup>4</sup> is hydrogen or a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched, aliphatic radical

optionally at least mono-substituted by hydroxy, fluorine, chlorine, bromide or trifluoromethyl,

$R^8$  and  $R^9$ , identical or different, each represent hydrogen or a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched,

aliphatic radical optionally at least mono-substituted by hydroxy, fluorine, chlorine, bromide or trifluoromethyl,

with the proviso that  $R^8$  and  $R^9$  are not hydrogen at the same time, and if one of them,  $R^8$  or  $R^9$ , is a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched,  $C_1$ - $C_4$  aliphatic radical optionally at least mono-substituted by hydroxy, fluorine, chlorine, bromide or trifluoromethyl, the other one is a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched, aliphatic radical with at least five carbon atoms optionally at least mono-substituted by hydroxy, fluorine, chlorine, bromide or trifluoromethyl, or

$R^8$  and  $R^9$  together with bridging nitrogen atom form a saturated or unsaturated, optionally at least mono-substituted heterocyclic ring, which may contain at least one additional heteroatom as a ring member and/or may be condensed with a saturated or unsaturated, optionally at least mono-substituted mono- or bicyclic cycloaliphatic ring system, which may optionally contain at least one heteroatom as a ring member, wherein each one of the substituents may be chosen from hydroxy, fluorine, chlorine, bromide, linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl, linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkoxy, linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_6$  perfluoroalkyl, linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_6$  perfluoroalkoxy and benzyl,

~~A represents an optionally at least mono-substituted mono- or polycyclic aromatic ring system, wherein the ring(s) is/are 5- or 6- membered, which may be bonded via an optionally at least mono-substituted  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkylene, an optionally at least mono-~~

~~substituted C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkenylene or an optionally at least mono-substituted C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>alkynylene group and/or wherein the ring(s) may contain at least one heteroatom as a ring member, which may be optionally at least mono-substituted by hydroxyl, halogen, linear or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl, linear or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkoxy, O-phenyl, linear or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> perfluoroalkyl, linear or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> perfluoroalkoxy, 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl, or phenyl radical~~ a phenyl or naphthyl ring optionally at least mono-substituted by fluorine, chlorine, bromine, linear or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl, linear or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkoxy, linear or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkylthio, trifluoromethyl radical, cyano radical or -NR<sup>12</sup>R<sup>13</sup> radical, wherein R<sup>12</sup> and R<sup>13</sup>, identical or different, represent hydrogen or a linear or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl; and

n is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

optionally in form of one of its stereoisomers in any mixing ratio, or a salt thereof.

2. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1, wherein R<sup>1</sup> represents a -NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup> radical or a saturated or unsaturated optionally at least mono-substituted 5- or 6-membered cycloaliphatic radical, which may optionally contain at least one heteroatom as a ring member and which may be condensed with a saturated or unsaturated, optionally at least mono-substituted mono- or bicyclic cycloaliphatic ring, which may optionally contain at least one heteroatom as a ring member, whereby the rings of the ring system are 5- or 6-membered, wherein each of the substituents may be chosen from hydroxyl, fluorine, chlorine, bromide, linear or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl, linear or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkoxy, linear or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> perfluoroalkyl, linear or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> perfluoroalkoxy and benzyl,
3. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1, wherein R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>5</sup>, R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>7</sup>, identical or different, each represent hydrogen, a linear or branched,

optionally at least mono-substituted C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl radical, a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkenyl radical, or a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkynyl radical, wherein each of the substituents may be chosen from hydroxy, fluorine, chlorine, bromide and trifluoromethyl.

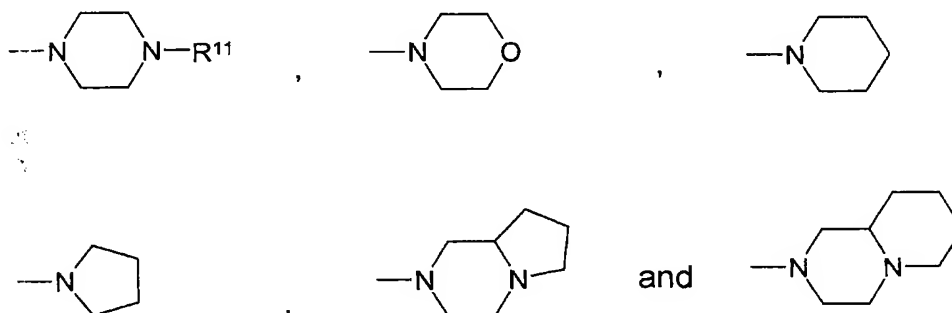
4. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1, wherein R<sup>4</sup> represents hydrogen, a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl radical, a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkenyl radical, a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkynyl radical, wherein each of the substituents may be chosen from hydroxy, fluorine, chlorine, bromide and trifluoromethyl.

5. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1, wherein R<sup>8</sup> and R<sup>9</sup>, identical or different, each represent hydrogen, a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkyl radical, a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkenyl radical, a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkynyl radical, wherein each of the substituents may be chosen from hydroxy, fluorine, chlorine, bromide and trifluoromethyl, or

R<sup>8</sup> and R<sup>9</sup> together with bridging nitrogen atom form a saturated or unsaturated, optionally at least mono-substituted 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring which may contain at least one additional heteroatom as a ring member and/or which may be condensed with a saturated or unsaturated, optionally at least mono-substituted mono- or bicyclic cycloaliphatic ring, which may optionally contain at least one heteroatom as a ring member, whereby the rings of the ring system are 5- 6- or 7-membered, wherein each one of the substituents may be chosen from hydroxy, fluorine, chlorine, bromide, linear or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl, linear or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkoxy, linear or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> perfluoroalkyl, linear or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> perfluoroalkoxy and benzyl.

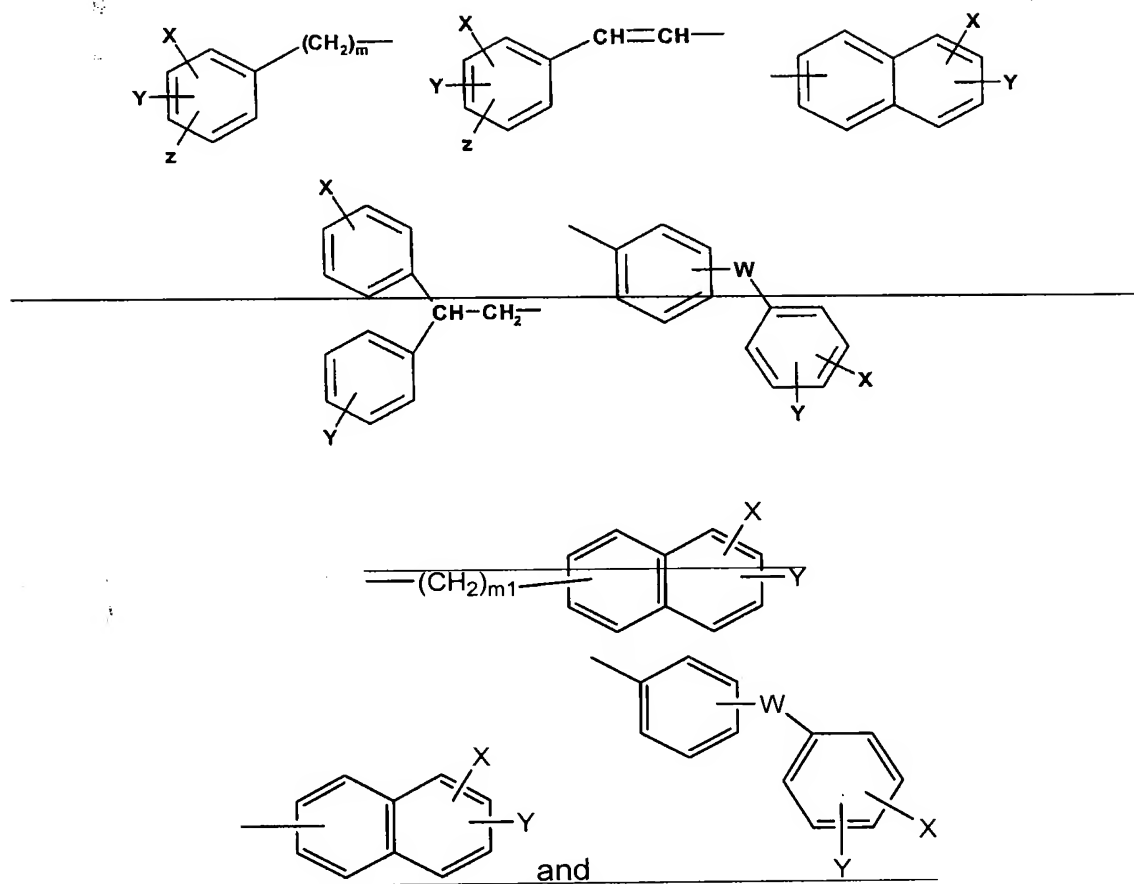
6. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 5, wherein  $R^8$  and  $R^9$ , identical or different, each represent hydrogen or a linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl radical, or

$R^8$  and  $R^9$  together with the bridging nitrogen atom form a radical chosen from the group consisting of



wherein  $R^{11}$ , if present, represents hydrogen, a linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl radical or a benzyl radical.

7. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 1, wherein A represents ~~an optionally at least mono-substituted mono- or polycyclic aromatic ring system, wherein the ring(s) is/are 5- or 6-membered and wherein one or more of the rings contain at least one heteroatom,~~ or a radical chosen from the group consisting of



wherein  $X$ ,  $Y$ ,  $Z$ ,  $X$  and  $Y$  independently from one another, each represent a radical selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, fluorine, chlorine, bromine, linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl, linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkoxy, linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkylthio, a trifluoromethyl radical, a cyano radical and a  $-NR^{12}R^{13}$  radical,

wherein  $R^{12}$  and  $R^{13}$ , identical or different, each represent hydrogen or linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl,

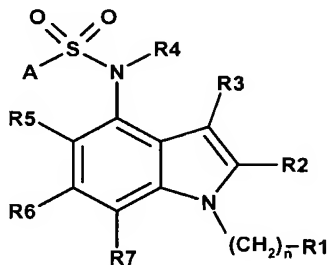
$W$  represents a single chemical bond between the two rings, a  $CH_2$ , O, S group or a  $NR^{14}$  radical,

wherein  $R^{14}$  is hydrogen or a linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl,

~~m is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4 and~~

~~m<sup>1</sup> is 1 or 2.~~

8. (Previously Presented) A sulfonamide compound of general formula



(Ib),

(Ib)

wherein

R<sup>1</sup> represents a -NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup> radical,

R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>5</sup>, R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>7</sup>, identical or different, each represent hydrogen, halogen, nitro, alkoxy, cyano, a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched, aliphatic radical optionally at least mono-substituted by hydroxy, fluorine, chlorine, bromide or trifluoromethyl, or a phenyl or a heteroaryl radical,

R<sup>4</sup> is hydrogen or a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched, aliphatic radical optionally at least mono-substituted by hydroxy, fluorine, chlorine, bromide or trifluoromethyl,

R<sup>8</sup> and R<sup>9</sup>, identical or different, each represent hydrogen or a saturated or

unsaturated, linear or branched, C<sub>1-4</sub> aliphatic radical optionally at least mono-substituted by hydroxy, fluorine, chlorine, bromide or trifluoromethyl,

A represents an optionally at least mono-substituted phenyl or naphthyl ring optionally at least mono-substituted by hydroxyl, halogen, linear or branched C<sub>1-C<sub>6</sub></sub> alkyl, linear or branched C<sub>1-C<sub>6</sub></sub> alkoxy, -O-phenyl, linear or branched C<sub>1-C<sub>6</sub></sub> perfluoroalkyl, linear or branched C<sub>1-C<sub>6</sub></sub> perfluoroalkoxy, 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl, or phenyl radical optionally at least mono-substituted by fluorine, chlorine, bromine, linear or branched C<sub>1-C<sub>6</sub></sub> alkyl, linear or branched C<sub>1-C<sub>6</sub></sub> alkoxy, linear or branched C<sub>1-C<sub>6</sub></sub> alkylthio, trifluoromethyl radical, cyano radical or -NR<sup>12</sup>R<sup>13</sup> radical, wherein R<sup>12</sup> and R<sup>13</sup>, identical or different, represent hydrogen or a linear or branched C<sub>1-C<sub>6</sub></sub> alkyl, and

n is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

optionally in form of one of its stereoisomers in any mixing ratio, or a salt thereof.

9. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 8, wherein R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>5</sup>, R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>7</sup>, identical or different, each represent hydrogen, a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C<sub>1-C<sub>6</sub></sub> alkyl radical, a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C<sub>2-C<sub>6</sub></sub> alkenyl radical, or a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C<sub>2-C<sub>6</sub></sub> alkynyl radical, wherein each of the substituents may be chosen from hydroxy, fluorine, chlorine, bromide and trifluoromethyl.

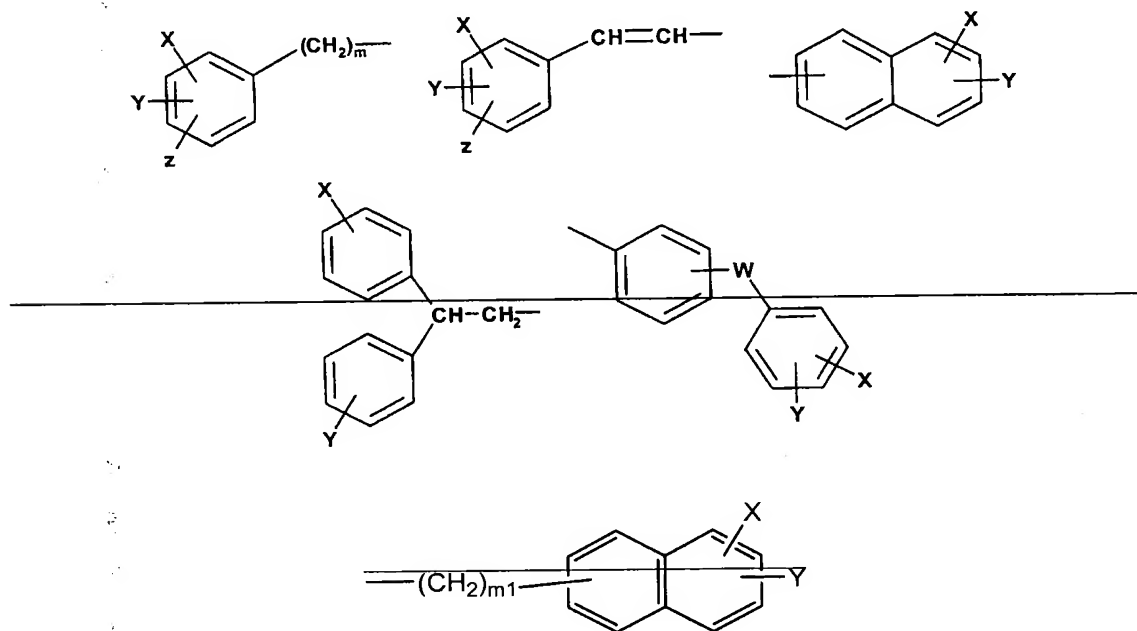
10. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 8, wherein R<sup>4</sup> represents hydrogen, a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C<sub>1-C<sub>6</sub></sub> alkyl radical, a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C<sub>2-</sub>

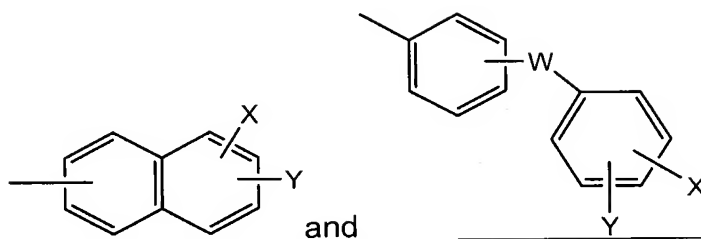


C<sub>6</sub> alkenyl radical, a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkynyl radical, wherein each of the substituents may be chosen from hydroxy, fluorine, chlorine, bromide and trifluoromethyl.

11. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 8, wherein R<sup>8</sup> and R<sup>9</sup>, identical or different, each represent hydrogen or a linear or branched, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl radical optionally at least mono-substituted by hydroxy, fluorine, chlorine, bromide and trifluoromethyl.

12. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 8, wherein A represents ~~A represents an optionally at least mono-substituted mono- or polycyclic aromatic ring system, wherein the ring(s) is/are 5- or 6-membered and wherein one or more of the rings contain at least one heteroatom, or a radical chosen from the group consisting of~~





wherein ~~X, Y, Z~~, X and Y independently from one another, each represent a radical selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, fluorine, chlorine, bromine, linear or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl, linear or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkoxy, linear or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkylthio, a trifluoromethyl radical, a cyano radical and a -NR<sup>12</sup>R<sup>13</sup> radical,

wherein R<sup>12</sup> and R<sup>13</sup>, identical or different, each represent hydrogen or linear or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl,

W represents a single chemical bond between the two rings, a CH<sub>2</sub>, O, S group or a NR<sup>14</sup> radical,

wherein R<sup>14</sup> is hydrogen or a linear or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl,

~~m is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4 and~~

~~m1 is 1 or 2.~~

13. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 8 selected from the group consisting of

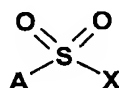
- [2] N-[1-(2-dimethylaminoethyl)-1H-indole-4-yl]-naphtalene-2-sulfonamide,
- [3] N-[1-(2-dimethylaminoethyl)-1H-indole-4-yl]-naphtalene-1-sulfonamide,
- [4] N-[1-(2-dimethylaminoethyl)-1H-indole-4-yl]-4-phenylbenzenesulfonamide,
- [5] N-[1-(2-dimethylaminoethyl)-1H-indole-4-yl]-2-(naphtalene-1-yl)-

ethanesulfonamide,

- [6] N-[1-(2-dimethylaminoethyl)-1H-indole-4-yl]-4-phenoxybenzenesulfonamide,  
[7] N-[1-(2-dimethylaminoethyl)-1H-indole-4-yl]-3,5-dichlorobenzenesulfonamide,  
[8] ~~6-chloro-N-[1-(2-dimethylaminoethyl)-1H-indol-4-yl]-imidazo[2,1-b]thiazole-5-sulfonamide~~

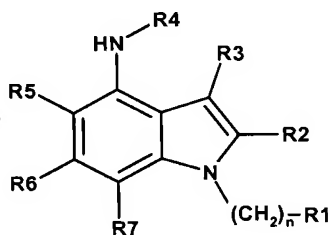
and their corresponding salts and solvates.

14 (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A process for obtaining a sulfonamide derivative of general formula (Ia) and/or (Ib), according to claim 1, wherein a compound of general formula (II), or one of its suitably protected derivatives,



(II)

wherein A has the meaning according to claim 1, and X is an acceptable leaving group, is reacted with at least one 4-aminoindole of general formula (III), or one of its suitably protected derivatives;



(III)

wherein R<sup>1</sup>-R<sup>7</sup> and n have the meaning according to claim 1 to obtain the corresponding sulfonamide and optionally, from the latter, the protective groups may be removed.

15. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A process for obtaining a sulfonamide derivative of general formula (Ia) and/or (Ib), according to claim 1, wherein  $R^1$ - $R^3$ ,  $R^5$ - $R^7$ , n and A have the meaning according to claim 1, and  $R^4$  represents  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl, the process comprising reacting at least one compound of general formula (Ia) and/or at least one compound of general formula (Ib), wherein  $R^1$ - $R^3$ ,  $R^5$ - $R^7$ , n and A have the meaning according to claim 1, and  $R^4$  represents an hydrogen atom, with an alkyl halogenide or dialkyl sulfate.
16. (Withdrawn- Previously Presented) A process for preparing salts of the compounds of general formula (Ia) and/or (Ib), according to claim 1, the process comprising reacting at least one compound of the general formula (Ia) and/or at least one compound of the general formula (Ib) with a mineral acid or organic acid in a suitable solvent.
17. (Previously Presented d) A composition comprising least one compound according to claim 1 and one or more pharmacologically acceptable excipients.

Claims 18-44 (Cancelled)

45. (Previously Presented) A composition comprising at least one compound according to claim 8 and one or more pharmacologically acceptable excipients.

Claims 46-72 (Cancelled).